

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2767

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, GW, UR, PFOR, PGOV, WB

SUBJ: SOVIETS OBJECT TO BERLIN ECONOMIC EXPERT AT

MEETING OF WORKING GROUP OF SOVIET/FRG ECONOMIC
COMMISSION

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY HERMES ON OCTOBER 26, HERMES REPORTED THAT SOVIET SIDE HAD REMOVED ITEM ON AGENDA OF MEETING OF WORKING GROUP OF SOVIET/FRG COMMISSION OCT. 20-21 CONCERNING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES ON THE GROUNDS THAT AN EXPERT FROM THE GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH LOCATED IN WEST BERLIN WOULD BE INCLUDED. HERMES SAID THAT THE GERMAN SIDE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ANNOYED SINCE THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN FORWARDED SOME TIME PREVIOUSLY THAT AN EXPERT FROM EITHER MUNICH OR BERLIN WOULD BE PRESENT.

2. FIRST INKLING OF SOVIET PROBLEM AROSE DURING CALL ON HERMES BY FALIN AND MANSHULO (DEPUTY MIN FOR
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FOREIGN TRADE) THE DAY BEFORE THE WORKING GROUP

MEETING WHEN SOVIETS SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY TO DISCUSS THIS AGENDA ITEM BECAUSE IT HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY A FEW WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. HERMES DID NOT AGREE TO DROPPING THE AGENDA ITEM AND NO MENTION WAS MADE BY THE SOVIET SIDE OF THE BERLIN ISSUE.

3. LATER WHEN THE COMMISSION ASSEMBLED THE SOVIETS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD INSIST ON DROPPING THE AGENDA ITEM BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE BERLIN EXPERT FROM WHAT THE FRG CONSIDERS "A PRIVATE RESEARCH INSTITUTE" IN WEST BERLIN. AS A CONSEQUENCE AFTER CHECKING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, STATE SECRETARY ROHWEDDER OF THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY, INSISTED ON DROPPING TWO OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND CUT THE MEETING SHORT BY HALF A DAY. IN ADDITION, ROHWEDDER CANCELLED A LUNCH WHICH HE HAD SCHEDULED FOR THE VISITING SOVIET DELEGATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT SINCE THE DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN SHORTENED BY HALF A DAY, HE WOULD NOT HAVE TIME TO HOST THE LUNCH.

4. HERMES CITED THIS INCIDENT AS YET A FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE INCREASE IN PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET SIDE CONCERNING FRG/BERLIN TIES.
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